

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 16, 31, 34–36 and cancel claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of measuring fluid flow from a fluid source to a baby's mouth through a nipple comprising:

providing a feeding pathway for fluid flow from the fluid source to the baby's mouth, wherein the feeding pathway has a first opening in communication with the fluid source and a second opening in communication with the baby's mouth; and

providing an indicator pathway ~~separate~~ having a different volume from the feeding pathway for indicating the amount of fluid provided to the baby's mouth through the feeding pathway, wherein the indicator pathway has a first opening in communication with the fluid source and a second opening in direct fluid communication with the baby's mouth,

receiving suction from the baby's mouth;

providing the suction to the feeding pathway and the indicator pathway; and

measuring the amount of fluid drawn into and retained in the indicator pathway,

whereby the amount of fluid drawn into and retained in the indicator pathway is indicative of the amount of fluid drawn into the feeding pathway.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator pathway and feeding pathway each have a cross-sectional area, and wherein the cross-sectional area of the indicator pathway is substantially smaller than the cross-sectional area of the feeding pathway.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator pathway and feeding pathway each have a length, and wherein the length of the indicator pathway is substantially longer than the length of the feeding pathway.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing a pressure delivery pathway between the baby's mouth and the second opening of the feeding pathway and the second opening of the indicator pathway.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a plurality of indicator pathways.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the feeding pathway and the indicator pathway are integral to the nipple.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing gradations along the indicator pathway to indicate the amount of fluid that has been provided to the baby's mouth through the feeding pathway.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing a plurality of feeding pathways to provide fluid from the fluid source to the baby's mouth.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid comprises breast milk, and wherein the feeding pathway and the indicator pathway are adapted to receive the breast milk from a mother's breast.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid source is a bottle.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing a check valve in the indicator pathway to prevent the backflow of fluid.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a comfort pad disposed between the mother's breast and the indicator pathway.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a milk collection reservoir, wherein the milk collection reservoir is disposed between the fluid source and the first opening of the indicator pathway such that it maintains a supply of breast milk to prevent air bubbles from entering the indicator pathway.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, further comprising providing a milk indicator reservoir, wherein the milk indicator reservoir is positioned in the indicator pathway.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator pathway further comprises a detachable indicator pathway.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An apparatus, comprising:

a feeding pathway for fluid flow from a fluid source to a baby's mouth, wherein the feeding pathway has a first opening in communication with the fluid source and a second opening in communication with the baby's mouth; and

an indicator pathway ~~separate~~ having a different volume from the feeding pathway for indicating the amount of fluid provided to the baby's mouth through the feeding pathway, wherein the indicator pathway has a first opening in communication with the fluid source and a second opening in direct fluid communication with the baby's mouth,

whereby the amount of fluid drawn into and retained in the indicator pathway is indicative of the amount of fluid drawn into the feeding pathway.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the indicator pathway and feeding pathway each have a cross-sectional area, and wherein the cross-sectional area of the indicator pathway is substantially smaller than the cross-sectional area of the feeding pathway.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the indicator pathway and feeding pathway each have a length, and wherein the length of the indicator pathway is substantially longer than the length of the feeding pathway.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: a pressure delivery pathway between the baby's mouth and the second opening of the feeding pathway and the second opening of the indicator pathway.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of indicator pathways.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the feeding pathway and the indicator pathway are integral to a nipple.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: gradations along the indicator pathway to indicate the amount of fluid that has been provided to the baby's mouth through the feeding pathway.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: a plurality of feeding pathways to provide fluid from the fluid source to the baby's mouth.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the fluid comprises breast milk, and wherein the feeding pathway and the indicator pathway are adapted to receive the breast milk from a mother's breast.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the fluid source is a bottle.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: a check valve in the indicator pathway to prevent the backflow of fluid.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a comfort pad disposed between the mother's breast and the indicator pathway.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a milk collection reservoir, wherein the milk collection reservoir is disposed between the fluid source and the first opening of the indicator pathway such that it maintains a supply of breast milk to prevent air bubbles from entering the indicator pathway.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a milk indicator reservoir, wherein the milk indicator reservoir is positioned in the indicator pathway.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the indicator pathway further comprises a detachable indicator pathway.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method of indicating suction from a baby's suckling, comprising:

receiving suction from a baby's mouth;

providing the suction to at least a first pathway and a second pathway ~~separate~~ having a different volume from the first pathway;

the suction drawing fluid from a fluid source into the first pathway and the second pathway, wherein the first and second pathways are in direct fluid communication with the baby's mouth; and

indicating the presence of fluid drawn into and retained in the second pathway, wherein the presence of fluid drawn into and retained in the second pathway indicates the presence of ~~the~~ suction to the first pathway.

Claims 32–33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 31, further comprising providing gradations along the second pathway to indicate the amount of fluid drawn into the second pathway.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of claim [[33]] 31, further comprising providing a color code on the second pathway to indicate the presence of fluid in the second pathway.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of claim [[33]] 31, wherein the amount of fluid drawn into and retained in the second pathway is indicative of [[an]] the amount of fluid drawn into the first pathway.